

capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives. This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic regional partner that has been, and continues to be, an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Israel's capability to meet current and future threats in the defense of its borders and territorial waters. The naval guns will be installed on Israeli Navy SA'AR 4.5 and SA'AR 6 Missile Patrol Boats. One gun will be located at an Israeli Naval Training Center to be used for training maintenance personnel. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The potential principal contractor will be DRS North America (a Leonardo company). There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Israel.

There is no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-87

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) Of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The naval gun system proposed in response to this request is a modern variant of the MK-75 naval gun system. The naval gun system is mounted aboard the ship and supports multiple missions while deployed at sea and at home port stations. The missions include ship's surface to air defense and surface to surface defense or attack modes. It also can be used for sea surface to land surface for bombardment or as offshore artillery to support troops on the ground. This gun system does not include Global Positioning System (GPS) or sensors. The naval gun hardware and support equipment, test equipment, and maintenance spares are UNCLASSIFIED.

2. Some of the prospective ammunition types that may be used with the gun system are either laser or GPS guided. Ammunition is not part of this proposal.

3. The naval gun system provides an interface (Digital Control Console) so that it can be used in conjunction with the ships' Fire Control System (FCS) and Combat Management System (CMS). The FCS and CMS are not proposed as part of this sale.

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the policy justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

ANTIQUITIES ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, apparently the Trump administration couldn't let its first 100 days go by without going after America's National Monuments. Anybody who cares about protecting some of the greatest treasures in Oregon and across the country ought to be worried.

The President is lining up an Executive order requiring a review of the boundaries of all National Monuments designated since 1996. It might sound bureaucratic, but it is more than that. The President's Executive order is a short-sighted attempt to roll back protections for some of America's most cherished landscapes.

The Executive order flies in the face of a century-old tradition that has ensured generations of Americans can enjoy natural treasures like the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in my home State.

Colleagues, for over 100 years, Presidents from both parties have used authority granted by the Antiquities Act to permanently protect special Federal lands as National Monuments, to preserve natural, cultural, and historic values for the benefit of everyone. Two of Oregon's most cherished areas were established as National Monuments through the Antiquities Act: Oregon Caves and Cascade-Siskiyou. Both of these areas have a remarkable diverse range of biological, geological, and historic objects.

I am proud to have worked with President Clinton to establish the original boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in 2000. I am proud to have worked with Senator MERKLEY to expand the monument earlier this year and to expand the boundary of the Oregon Caves National Monument in 2014.

There are two important points to make about this debate.

First, it is important that the individuals who live near and recreate on these lands have an opportunity to make their voices heard. As public lands everywhere, they ultimately belong to all of the people.

Some people, the President included, say these monuments are an example of overreach and designated without the right process.

On this issue, the President is wrong. These monuments are not the result of administrative overreach. The boundaries of these monuments are based on years of collaboration between the administration, States, and local stakeholders.

The second point to make is about rural economies. National Monuments, National Parks, and public lands across the United States are important economic generators for rural communities.

According to a report released just this week, public lands generate billions of dollars in consumer spending and millions of jobs every year. In Oregon, the outdoor recreation economy generated \$12.8 billion in consumer spending in 2012 and over 140,000 direct jobs. Nationally, the numbers are even bigger; in 2012, the outdoor recreation economy generated \$88.9 billion nationwide and over 7 and a half million jobs.

Colleagues, there is an agenda behind this Executive order, and it puts some of our greatest outdoor treasures and a lot of jobs in danger.

Some members of this administration—including the Secretary of the Interior—have said the right things about public lands, and that was reassuring to millions of people who care about recreation. I hope it wasn't just talk, and I certainly hope the President's Executive order is not the first step in dismantling America's National Monuments and public lands.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "EXODUS 1947"'S ARRIVAL IN HAIFA

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, July 18, 2017, marks the 70th anniversary of the day that the ship *Exodus 1947* arrived in Haifa, Israel.

The story of *Exodus 1947* is as important today as it was 70 years ago. In 1947, the world was horrified and outraged by the British policy of violently preventing Holocaust survivors from reaching Palestine and forcing their return to Europe and refugee camps in Germany. Watching the British Navy ram the *Exodus 1947*, which had 4,515 Holocaust survivors on board, inflamed world opinion and prompted the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine, UNSCOP, to scrutinize the actions of the British. Eventually the British were forced to end their policy of preventing Jewish immigration to Israel, and the State of Israel was born.

Why is the story of the *Exodus 1947* so important that we are still talking about it 70 years later? After all, geopolitical transitions have launched multiple large-scale refugee migrations around the world in the 20th century, including Armenians in 1915, Russians in 1917, Chinese in 1949, Hindus from Pakistan and Muslims from India in 1947, East Germans between 1945 and 1961, Bosnians in the 1990s, Rwandans in 1994, Syrians in 2016—and many more.

The story of the *Exodus 1947* is important to remember and consider today because it reminds us of our responsibility to protect human rights, help people outside of our own borders, stand up for Americans values, and work with our allies and international organizations to advance our goals. It reminds us that our work is not finished. It reminds us that, while it was the Jews on the *Exodus 1947* 70 years ago, political outrages around the world continue to require our leadership and our action.

As a U.S. Senator from Maryland and vigilant friend of the Chesapeake Bay and Maryland's Maritime history, I would like to highlight the fact that, prior to its service in support of Jewish refugees from the Holocaust, the *Exodus 1947* was called the *President Warfield* and it sailed the Chesapeake Bay for the Baltimore Steam Packet Company. The *President Warfield* changed hands many times, from the Baltimore Steam Packet Company to the British Navy to the U.S. Navy to the Potomac Shipwrecking Company, which was actually acting as clandestine purchasing agents of the Haganah who wanted the